

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 are pending and stand rejected in the above-captioned application. In this response, claims 1 and 5 have been amended, and claims 3 and 19 have been cancelled.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants are submitting an Information Disclosure Statement in this communication under the terms of 37 CFR 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statements includes copies of the “crossed-out” references referred to in the Office Action.

II. Specification

Applicants are not aware of any errors in the specification. Applicants confirmed that the no corrections to the specification were made during the prosecution of applications related to this pending application.

III. Claim Objections

The informalities in claims 1 and 5 have been corrected in accordance with the Office Action.

IV. Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 and 19 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,146,103 (“Lee”). Claims 1 and 19 have also been rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,477,901 (“Tadigadapa”). In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the subject matter in claims 2-18 is allowable over the prior art. So to overcome the rejection of claim 1 over Lee and Tadigadapa, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 3 into claim 1, and cancelled claim 3. Applicants assert that the incorporation of the limitations of claim 3 into claim 1 should place claim 1, and the claims dependent from claim 1, into condition for allowance. Since claim 19 has been cancelled, Applicants assert that all pending claims (claim 1, 2, and 4-18) are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and action toward that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would expedite the examination of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald R. McKenna
Reg. No. 44,922

CALIPER LIFE SCIENCES, INC..
605 Fairchild Drive
Mountain View, CA 94043-2234
Tel: 650-623-0737
Fax: 650-623-0504

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 by Michael Moores, on December 10, 2004.

Signed:  _____